The Process

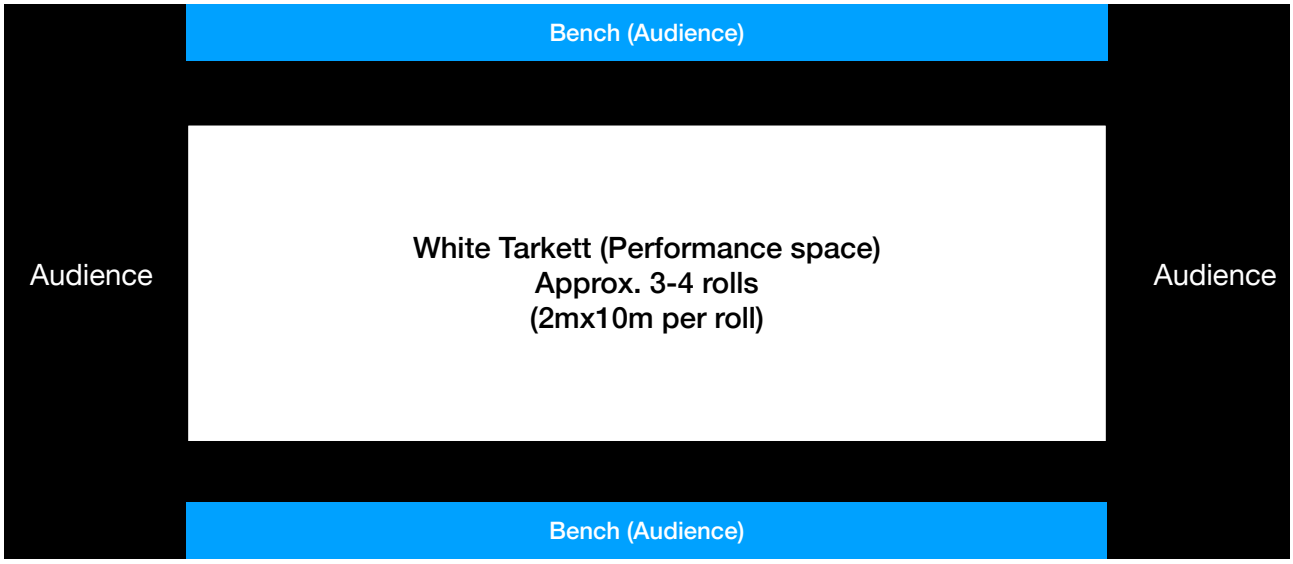
Concept:
This full-length contemporary dance work features five performers inhabiting a stark, evocative landscape. Throughout the performance, fine black sand will gradually fall from above, confined within the white tarkett flooring area, creating a slow transformation of the performance environment.

Duration: 35–45 minutes
Venue: Recreation Hall
Performances: Up to 5 over the course of 2 days

Staging & Setup:
The central performance area consists of 3–4 rolls of white tarkett flooring (each approx. 2m x 10m), laid in the middle of the Recreation Hall. A low-profile frame or border will surround the tarkett space to contain the falling sand. Sand will descend from ceiling-mounted buckets or via a freestanding rig, positioned to align with the tarkett dimensions.
Audiences may sit on benches arranged along either side of the space or move freely around the perimeter for a more immersive experience.

Technical Flexibility:
The setup allows for full presetting and resetting between performances, enabling the venue to remain open for collaboration with other projects if needed.
The installation is scalable and adaptable to alternate locations, including other spaces within the Boiler Room facility (images taken from site visit attached). Happy to work with IWC and BoS to ensure the concept can be delivered, within the heritage restrictions.

Floor plan: White bay Recreation hall



How does your project respond to the curatorial statement and to the site?
An interpretation of a day in the life of a White Bay Power Station worker. Central to the piece is the visual and symbolic use of black sand—representing the coal that was once pulverized by metal balls in the station's mills. As the sand slowly falls during the performance, it evokes both the passage of time—like grains slipping through an hourglass—and the grime that inevitably clung to workers' bodies. As the dancers move through the space, the sand clings to them, echoing the residue of labor and memory.

The stark contrast between the white flooring and the black sand creates a powerful visual, inviting the audience to feel as though they are witnessing a flashback in real time. Through physically demanding choreography, the performers embody the repetition, strain, and rhythm of manual work, offering a visceral interpretation of the labor that once powered the site.

Staged in the Recreation Hall, the performance pays direct tribute to the space's original purpose: a place where workers once gathered to rest, connect, and watch live entertainment. By returning art and presence to this now-heritage site, the work bridges past and present—***honouring industrial history while creating space for reflection, memory, and transformation through movement.***

Please outline your connection to the Inner West through study, work or other.
In addition to being a performer and creative, I have been teaching yoga and Pilates in the Inner West for over 10 years, including at Balmain Fitness (now on Darling Street), which sits directly opposite the White Bay Power Station. My ongoing connection to the area has deeply informed my practice. I've also had the privilege of collaborating with a local Inner West visual artist, whose work has been featured in previous performances as part of the set and props (see image in supporting documents), further grounding my work in the local creative community.

Alternate concept in control room: (Reference image option 4 *)
Throughout the performance, artificial flower petals are circulated through the air, creating a constant visual presence that mirrors the steady flow of operations within the control room. What appears to be a calm, contained space is in fact the nerve center of the power station—where precision, vigilance, and endurance are critical. As the petals make contact with the performers, they reflect the accumulation of physical and mental strain embedded in the work—symbolising how each task, no matter how small, leaves its mark. Viewed through a surrounding glass panel, the audience witnesses the scene like an enclosed system under pressure—a snow globe-like window into the controlled yet demanding reality of industrial labor.

Budget:

Figures are based off MEAA LPA

Company dancers - Casual

Table 1 of 3 Classification	Hourly pay rate	Casual performance rate	Casual rehearsal rate - less	Casual rehearsal rate - over 1	Sunday - performance	Sunday - rehearsal
Company dancer level 1	$38.35	$243.34	$25.64 for each 1/2 hour or part thereof worked	$51.28 for the first hour and $25.64 for each additional	$486.68 per performance	$102.56
Company dancer level 2	$39.75	$252.24	$25.64 for each 1/2 hour or part thereof worked	$51.28 for the first hour and $25.64 for each additional	$504.48 per performance	$102.56
Company dancer level 3	$41.11	$260.94	$25.64 for each 1/2 hour or part thereof worked	$51.28 for the first hour and $25.64 for each additional	$521.88 per performance	$102.56
Company dancer level 4	$42.41	$269.16	$25.64 for each 1/2 hour or part thereof worked	$51.28 for the first hour and $25.64 for each additional	$538.32 per performance	$102.56
Company dancer level 5	$43.84	$278.20	$25.64 for each 1/2 hour or part thereof worked	$51.28 for the first hour and $25.64 for each additional	$556.40 per performance	$102.56
Company dancer level 6	$45.43	$288.30	$25.64 for each 1/2 hour or part thereof worked	$51.28 for the first hour and $25.64 for each additional	$576.60 per performance	$102.56
Company dancer level 7	$47.31	$300.26	$25.64 for each 1/2 hour or part thereof worked	$51.28 for the first hour and $25.64 for each additional	$600.52 per performance	$102.56

Income	**$**	**Expenditure**	**$**	
IWC Commissioning Fee	$20,000.00	Costumes/materials/set	$3,700.00	
Access stipend	$3,000.00	Designer/maker fee	$3,000.00	
		Artist Rehearsal fee up to 20hrs x 5 (LPA casual rate)	$5,000.00	
		Artist performance fee (4 performances)	$6,000.00	
		Super 12%	$1,680.00	
		Contingency	$1,000.00	
		Auslan/Audio descriptions for performances	$1,000.00	
		Intimacy workshop	$500.00	
		Creative fee	$1,120.00	
		Studio Hire 20hrs + Tarkett flooring 4 rolls (Aprox $2800 in kind)		
		Total	$**23,000.00**	

Reference images

Below are site locations taken from site visit that this concept can be adapted to.

(Option 2: Upstairs boiler room)

(Option 3: Downstairs boiler room hollow space)

Option 4: The concept can be adapted to this space by incorporating artificial black flower petals dispersed throughout the area during the dance performance. This visual element symbolises the unseen chaos unfolding behind the scenes of a control room, contrasting with its calm and orderly outward appearance.

Below are reference images of similar material used in past performance and connection with visual artist based in inner west.

Example of flower petals

Example of Sand

Paintings of inner west based artist featured in past performances

Previous site specific work :

Dance performance at NSW Art Gallery hall. Story telling through shadows.

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee at Hayes Theatre Co

Links to Previous work:

Spelling Bee Promo:

Grounded-Choreographed by Vi Lam